

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Official Action dated May 9, 2007.

At the outset and before addressing the rejections raised in the Official Action, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 45 as set forth herein with the allowable subject matter of claim 16, and cancelled claim 16. The Applicants further amended dependencies of claims 17 and 20 to depend from claim 1. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new subject matter has been entered via the foregoing amendments to the pending claims.

Claims 1, 17, 20, and 45 have been amended; Claims 2-16, 22-44, 47 and 49 have been canceled. Consequently, claims 1, 17-23, 45-46, and 48 are now pending in this application.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, and 16-23 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner identified an instance of indefiniteness as set forth on page 2 of the Official Action. The applicants have amended claim 1 as set forth herein to obviate the identified instance of indefiniteness. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, of claims 1 and 16-23 (claim 16 cancelled).

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 45-46 and 48 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Micalizzi Jr., et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,564,271) (hereinafter "Micalizzi") and Avery (U.S. Pat. No. 6,704,831).

As stated above, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 45 as recited herein with the allowable subject matter of claim 16. Claims 1 and 45 are therefore allowable.

Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of independent claims 1 and 45, as well as dependent claims 17-

23, 46 and 48, based at least on their respective dependencies from the now allowable independent claims 1 and 45.

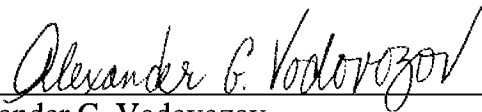
CONCLUSION

The Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned, Applicants' attorney, at 516-203-7270 to facilitate the allowance of this application. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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